

10/588116

IA P5 Rec'd PCT/PTO 27 JUL 2006
PATENT

S/N Filed Herewith

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Applicant: | CHENG et al. | Examiner: | Unknown |
| Serial No.: | Filed Herewith | Group Art Unit: | Unknown |
| Filed: | July 27, 2006 | Docket No.: | 03164.0205USWO |
| Title: | SOLVENT EXTRACTION PROCESS FOR SEPARATING COBALT AND/OR NICKEL FROM IMPURITIES IN LEACH SOLUTIONS | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 408494594 US
Date of Deposit: July 27, 2006

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

By: 
Name: John Junkers

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the International Search Report. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed February 24, 2005.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

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No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C.

§§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

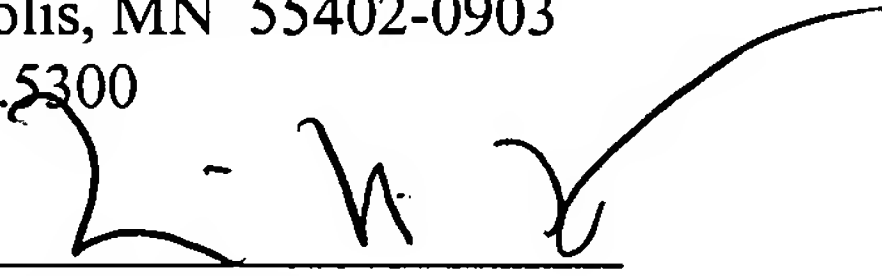
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

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Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612)332.5300

Dated: July 27, 2006

By: 
Brian H. Batzli
Reg. No.: 32,960

BHB/mkc

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| FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary) | Docket Number: 03164.0205USWO | Application Number: 10/588116 <small>File Use with</small> |
| | Applicant: CHENG et al. | |
| | Filing Date: July 27, 2006 | Group Art Unit: Unknown |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | 3,903,235 | 9/1975 | Cardwell et al. | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | 2 109 357 A | 6/1983 | Great Britain | | | | |
| | 1 223 242 | 6/1987 | Canada | | | | |
| | 98/14623 | 4/1998 | WIPO | | | | |
| | 02/22896 A1 | 3/2002 | WIPO | | | | |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 84-109393/18, Class E31, J01, M25, ES 8401143 A, (Schortmann P C), 16 February 1984, Abstract |
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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant. | |